MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE

THE CHART

MUSIC MAYHEM

Find out about the many rock artists releasing new CDs this fall. *Page 6*

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Check out the story of a mother who plays tennis at Southern with her daughter. *Page 11*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2003 | WWW.THECHARTONLINE.COM | VOLUME NO. 63, ISSUE NO. 17

Organizations create Black History awareness

By Mandi Steele
International Editor

February is not only the month to celebrate two of America's most famous presidents, but also the month to celebrate the achievements of African-Americans.

Black History Month is a time Americans have set aside to reflect on the historical contributions blacks have made over the years.

To help create awareness on campus, Missouri Southern held a couple of different events this semester and a diversity speaker is also scheduled. Jason Givens, senior CIS major, is president of Southern Impact and said the club helped with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast held on Jan. 20. The club has also been working with the Campus Activities Board to bring Malik Cooper to the College.

"We thought Malik would be a good person to speak on diversity," Givens said.

Givens said it was his idea to bring Cooper, formerly on MTV's "Real World," to Southern, so he brought up the idea to CAB.

"We needed to do something for Black History Month," Givens said.

It didn't work out for Cooper to come during February, so he will give his presentation at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 5 in Webster Hall Auditorium. Julie Blackford, director of student activities, said she knows Black History Month is important, but it can be difficult to plan a lot of events for it in February. She said sometimes it comes down to a "price issue" or the fact that there just isn't enough time in between other activities.

Blackford said the month of February isn't what is important.

"Blacks should be celebrated all the time, not just in February," she said.

Participation from students can also be an issue when it comes to planning campus events.

"The thing that concerns me is when we've had other activities on campus that we got little to no participation," said Dr. Gloria Faine, associate professor of education.

Givens agreed that turnout can be a problem when it comes to black awareness events, but another bigger issue is how often black history is taught in the classrooms.

"Is it being taught enough?" he asked.

Givens wants students to realize there is more to black history than the underground railroad.

"I think [black history] should be integrated into the mainstream of historical presentation," Faine said.

As an African-American, she realizes that King's accomplishments are well known.

"I also feel that we have had other people make equally significant contributions to the country, and most people are not aware of them," Faine said.

In 1926, "Negro History Week" was established in part by Dr. Carter G. Woodson who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Woodson chose the second week of February because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two individuals he thought impacted the lives of African-Americans, were born during that week. The week turned into Black History Month in 1976.

Faine wishes African-Americans could be presented in history in the same way as other Americans and not just by setting aside one month.

"But, some recognition is better than no recognition at all," she said.

"My biggest dream is that [black history] would be integrated into the

TURN TO **HISTORY**, PAGE 8

College prepares Financial Aid Fair

By David Haut
Staff Writer

Students have the opportunity to learn all about the different aspects of financial aid it the upcoming Financial Aid Fair.

"There are students who aren't aware of the services they're available to get," said Kathy Feith, financial aid counselor. "We're trying to get the information out."

A large list of businesses and agencies will be attending the fair, including Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, Commerce Bank and FAFSA.

Consumer Credit Counseling will be conducting workshops for those struggling with college debt.

Feith encourages students to attend to find out exactly what they may qualify for.

"We have students who don't feel they qualify for aid, and then they don't file," Feith said. "Many students are surprised to find out that they do qualify.

"It's designed to help the student all the way around to get more information."

The fair is free to all students, along with food, door prizes and drawings for two $250 scholarships and a $500 scholarship. This is the first year for the fair, put on by the office of financial aid.

Originally in control of the fair was Cheryl Dobson, financial aid counselor.

Dobson is currently out for medical reasons, leaving Feith in charge. Assisting in the fair is the Public Relations Society of America.

"We helped get sponsors for the fair, get people to help distribute fliers, and handle the press release," said Craig Jones, junior communications major.

"Hopefully, everyone will benefit in some way or another," Feith said.

"It's not going to hurt you to apply. What do you have to lose?"

The Financial Aid Fair takes place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday in the Billingsly Student Center.

"There are students who aren't aware of the services they're available to get. We're trying to get the information out."

Kathy Feith
Financial Aid Counselor

BUILDING IN THE BOOKSTORE

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Sarah Gozia, sophomore undecided major, helps Kelly Estes, bookstore clerk, assemble a glass display for T-shirts.

Bag of syringes indicates possible crime

By Josh Ray
Diversions Editor

A bag of syringes found on campus resulted in a visit from the Joplin Police Department.

At about 6 a.m. on Feb. 11, Terry Hardesty, physical plant employee, found a small purse full of syringes in the bottom of a trash can. Hardesty was changing the trash can liners in one of the women's restrooms on the bottom floor of Matthews Hall when he made the discovery.

Hardesty said a few purses had been lost over the previous days in the building, and he figured someone had probably found the purse, took what they wanted out of it and just deposited it in the trash can.

When he opened the purse, he saw the syringes and called security.

"Anytime you find something, you call security," Hardesty said.

Craig Richardson, hazardous materials officer, was called to take care of the bag. Using latex surgical gloves to be "real cautious," he took the bag to the security office for investigation.

He described it as a blue clutch purse filled with needles, a mirror, a razor and residue. Richardson said the powdery white residue looked like crystallized methamphetamine residue. He called the JPD to handle the incident.

Ken Kennedy, manager of safety and security, said if the syringes had looked like they were used for legitimate purpos-

TURN TO **SYRINGES**, PAGE 8

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Avan Yu performed Feb. 19 in Webster Hall Auditorium for area children.

MSIPC winner performs at Southern

By Michelle Conty
Associate Editor

Boosting interest in the arts and expanding the international mission are two reasons students may want to attend Avan Yu's piano recital.

Yu is the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition winner, junior division, 2002.

Students from Joplin and the surrounding area were exposed to strains of Stravinsky, Bach and Beethoven Feb. 19. Yu performed for 13 area schools in two one-hour performances.

"I want them to see up close and personal what success is all about," said Vivian León, director of MSIPC. "I hope it inspires them (students) to see what type of dedication it takes to be so good."

After performing a shortened version of the concert he is to put on Friday, Yu held a question and answer session with the students.

"This is an opportunity to hear a young man at the very beginning of his career, who is very unusual," said Dr. Cynthia Hukill, assistant professor of music and director of piano studies. "He is 15 years old. Years from now, they might be able to say I heard Avan Yu when he was 15 years old, when I was a

TURN TO **MSIPC**, PAGE 8

INSIDE THIS EDITION

City.....10
Closer Look.....12
Diversions.....6,7
International.....5
News.....2,3,8
Public Forum.....4
Sports.....11
State News.....9

WEEKEND OUTLOOK

SATURDAY
Cloudy
High: 44
Low: 29

SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 40
Low: 22

For complete weather, turn to Page 2

ONLINE

Log on to www.thechartonline.com to take this week's poll question: Do you think security does enough to protect the campus?

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Monday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m.
Billingsly Student Ctr., Room 310

Want to interview to join the Peace Corps?
Interview at SMSU campus Feb. 27. Call Joe Zucchini at (312) 353-1125 to schedule. Applicant must bring a completed application to the www.peacecorps.gov interview (may be downloaded from Web site).

Nine out of 10 readers prefer to get papercuts from *The Chart*. Shouldn't YOU?

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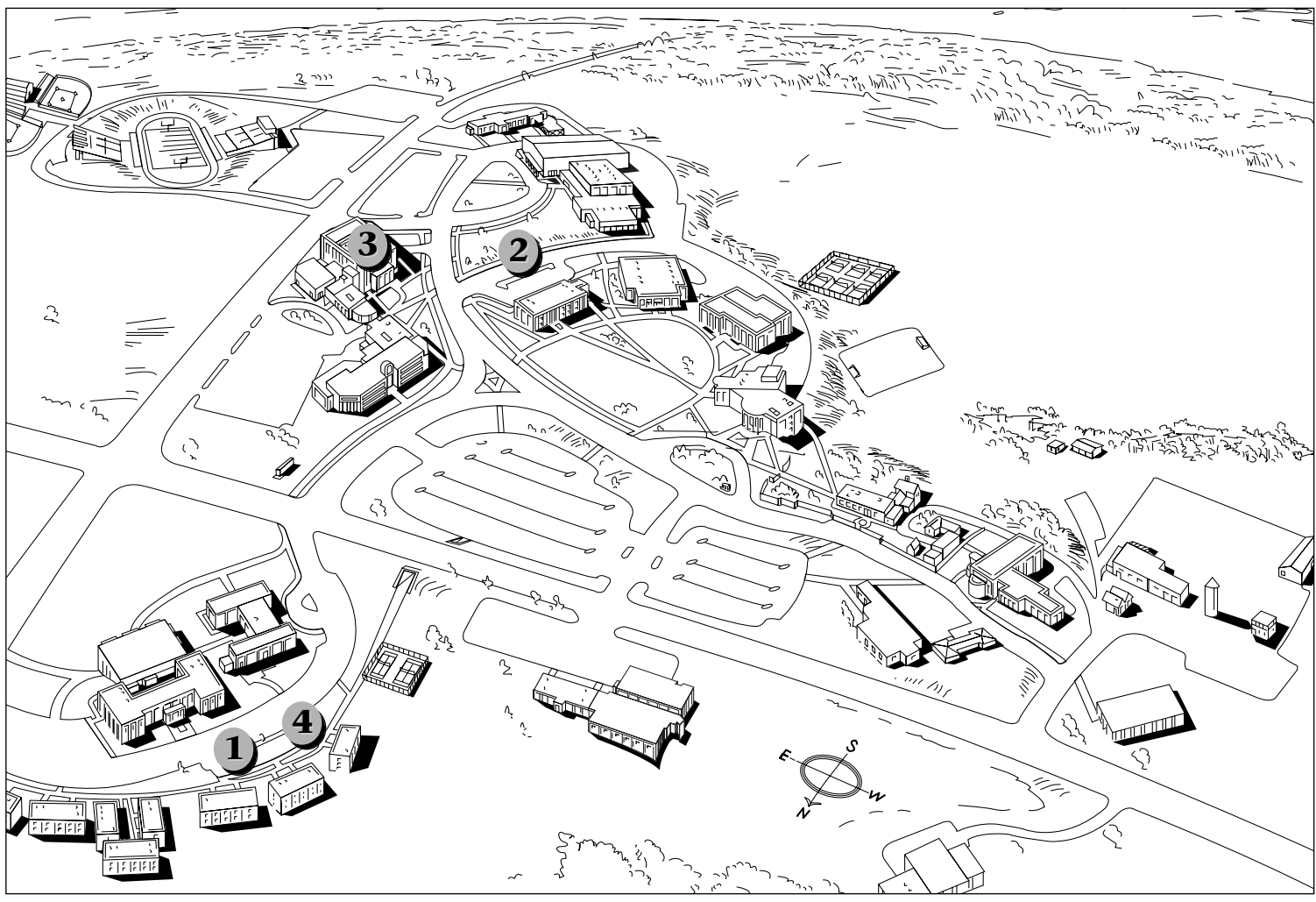


Belligerent man goes on campus rampage

1 Theft

02/12/2003

9:25 p.m.

A student's vehicle was broken into. While giving a theft report to a security officer, the student noticed that his friend's vehicle had also been entered.

Someone entered the vehicle and stole a CD player and an album of CDs. The student had lost the vehicle's door key, and it was not locked at the time.

The person who broke into the vehicle had ripped the CD player from the dash. The student was advised to make a report to the Joplin Police Department.

2 Disturbance

02/12/2003

2:25 p.m.

Security was advised that a student became belligerent over parking in Lion Backer reserved parking.

Later, security was contacted that the same student was not following the library's cell phone use policy.

Security warned the student about using his cell phone in the library.

The student apparently made rude gestures as he left the library.

3 Injured Person

02/13/2003

4:05 p.m.

A security officer was called to Taylor Auditorium in reference to a person who had fallen from a ladder.

The victim said he was adjusting some lights when he lost his balance and fell from the ladder. He complained of some numbness in his left hand and the lower left side of his back.

An ambulance was called to the scene and the victim was transported to a hospital.

4 Theft

02/15/2003

10:50 a.m.

A student advised security his vehicle had been broken into.

Both front doors of the vehicle were standing open and two duffel bags had been taken. The student said the bags contained books and clothes.

There were no signs of forced entry into his vehicle.

Accessweather.com Local Weather Report — Feb. 21, 2003

Joplin's 7-Day Forecast

Friday — Rain — High: 50 Low: 41

Saturday — Cloudy — High: 44 Low: 29

Sunday — Partly Cloudy — High: 40 Low: 22

Monday — Cloudy — High: 45 Low: 28

Tuesday — Cloudy — High: 48 Low: 31

Wednesday — Partly Cloudy — High: 44 Low: 33

Thursday — Partly Cloudy — High: 46 Low: 29

Joplin's Almanac Last Week

Day	High	Low	Normals	Precip*
Monday	49	32	48/27	0.00"
Tuesday	54	32	48/28	0.00"
Wednesday	56	26	48/28	0.00"
Thursday	61	28	49/28	0.71"
Friday	70	50	49/29	0.35"
Saturday	63	27	49/29	0.06"
Sunday	28	23	49/29	0.02"

Precipitation for the week .....1.14"
Normal precipitation for the week .....0.55"
Departure from normal for the week .+0.59"
Precipitation for the year .....1.68"
Normal precipitation year to date .....3.01"
Departure from normal for the year ...-1.33"
* Precipitation includes snow converted to rainfall

Campus Recreational Forecast

An area of low pressure with an associated cold front will move through the vicinity today. A 60 to 70 percent chance of precipitation will be in the forecast along with breezy conditions. An upper level area of low pressure will keep cloudy skies in the forecast Saturday. An area of high pressure will be in control of the weather Sunday, generating partly cloudy skies and this will be your best chance to head outdoors. Clouds will increase Monday in advance of the next storm system. High temperatures are going to top out in the 40s and 50s. Lows will be in the 20s to the lower 40s.

Joplin's Sun/Moon Chart This Week

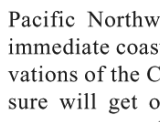
Last 2/23 — New 3/2 — First 3/11 — Full 3/18

Day	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri	7:00 a.m.	6:03 p.m.	11:45 p.m.	9:56 a.m.
Sat	6:59 a.m.	6:04 p.m.	None	10:30 a.m.
Sun	6:58 a.m.	6:05 p.m.	12:57 a.m.	11:08 a.m.
Mon	6:57 a.m.	6:06 p.m.	2:07 a.m.	11:52 a.m.
Tue	6:55 a.m.	6:07 p.m.	3:14 a.m.	12:44 p.m.
Wed	6:54 a.m.	6:08 p.m.	4:14 a.m.	1:42 p.m.
Thu	6:53 a.m.	6:09 p.m.	5:06 a.m.	2:45 p.m.

Weather History

Feb. 20, 1987 - A storm system over Arizona spread heavy snow from the southern Rockies into the Southern Plains region. Thunderstorms in central Texas produced golf ball size hail about the same time north central Texas was being blanketed with up to eight inches of snow.

National Weather Summary This Week



A strengthening area of low pressure with a trailing cold front will create havoc across the eastern United States as we move into this weekend. A wide area of precipitation is going to develop, stretching from the Great Lakes region and the New England states all the way down to the Gulf Coast. A storm system will move into the Pacific Northwest as we begin next week. Widespread rain will fall along the immediate coastline. The precipitation will be a wintry mix in the higher inland elevations of the Cascade Mountains. By the middle of next week, an area of low pressure will get organized across the southern Plains. As this low pressure center moves eastward, it will tap moisture out of the Gulf of Mexico.

All forecasts, data and graphics provided by Accessweather.com, Inc. © 2003. All rights reserved.

Weather Trivia

What effect does the Gulf Stream have on winter storms?

Answer: Powerful Nor'Easters can develop from it.

Tanning Index Today

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

UV Index Scale
0-2: Minimal Exposure
3-4: Low Exposure
5-6: Moderate Exposure
7-9: High Exposure
10+: Very High Exposure

Local Precipitation Log

Month	2003	2002	Normal
Jan	0.30	3.09	1.74
Feb	1.38	0.72	2.12
Mar	------	2.65	3.10
Apr	------	4.10	4.10
May	------	13.60	4.96
Jun	------	4.71	5.07
Jul	------	4.87	3.73
Aug	------	1.14	3.58
Sep	------	1.64	4.97
Oct	------	2.30	3.50
Nov	------	0.56	3.18
Dec	------	2.10	2.54
Total	**1.68**	**41.48**	**42.59**

All precipitation is in inches

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Eat Em Up!

Department selects English instructor

BY ALLISON ROSEWICZ
Editor-in-Chief

The search is finally over.

After two semesters of looking, Missouri Southern has finally found a replacement instructor for a vacancy in the English department.

"The search committee has made its recommendation, and we've extended an offer," said Dr. Dale Simpson, head of the department of English.

The assistant professor of English position opened at the end of the fall 2001 semester when Bryan Vescio resigned. He left after his wife had a baby, and they wanted to return to family in Wisconsin.

Following the search during the spring 2002 semester, the College was unable to find a replacement. Simpson said the department had never done a spring search before.

Three candidates were brought in, but no one was hired.

"I guess because most people start their search in the fall instead of the spring, we may have had less luck at that time," Simpson said.

So another search was conducted this semester. This time around, the result was successful.

According to Dr. Larry Martin, vice president for academic affairs, the process in finding a replacement, however, is not an easy one.

First the department has to have a clear vacancy.

"We have to have a vacancy as the result of an official resignation or retirement, unless the department is growing," Martin said.

After the department asks for permission to search, a screening and search committee forms. The committee this semester was comprised of four full-time English department faculty members and one student, David Mink, senior English major.

The committee has to get approval from Human Resources before publishing something to advertise the vacancy.

Applications are then gathered, and the committee reviews and selects the candidates it wants to interview, then sends Martin a letter about these candidates. He advises the committee to allow Human Resources to review the list, making sure it is diverse enough.

Interviews are set up, and the candidates visit the College. The candidate is often asked to teach a class on these visits.

"The premium is always on the classroom," Martin said. "We want to make sure they're a good teacher."

The committee then makes recommendations to the department head, who then makes the final selection, and it goes to the dean to Martin.

"Anytime we hire, we have to look at that person eventually as a full professor," Martin said. "Does that person have the potential to reach those qualifications?"

He said whenever someone is hired, tenured or promoted, the administration looks at three qualifications: classroom performance, scholarly/creative activity and College service.

"All three of those are kind of standard in higher education," Martin said. "Those are not uncommon. The difference might be the emphasis we place on the classroom."

Simpson added that the English department looks for promise of continual development and someone who has earned a reputation as an excellent teacher.

"Missouri Southern is a teaching institution, so we expect they come here with an enthusiasm for teaching," he said.

Mink said the committee looked for someone "who was energetic and good with students."

Simpson said for this position, the English department received 50 to 55 applicants.

The committee narrowed down its search, and two candidates visited Southern a couple of weeks ago. One was chosen, and the candidate has verbally agreed to take the job.

The official contract was mailed out Feb. 18.

"Until we get the signed contract back, however, we can't really comment," Simpson said.

"Once we get a signature, the search will be officially closed."

The new assistant professor, who specializes in modern British literature of the 20th and 21st centuries with an emphasis in post-colonial literature, will carry a 12-hour course load. The new instructor will teach two composition classes, as well as two literature classes.

"I think they're [the new instructor] going to do very well," Mink said.

"He had a very good presentation when he came."

NICE SHOT

Cameron Bohannon, senior mass communications major, volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters and spends time with his two "brothers" at the Boys and Girls Club in Joplin. The program has been matching children with mentors across the United States for almost 100 years. For more on this organization, please see the story on Page 10.

Naoko Onoda/The Chart

$$$

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

FINANCIAL AID FAIR 2003

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, February 26

Billingsly Student Center 2nd floor lounge

Consumer Credit Counseling Workshops

9-10 a.m. in BSC, Room 311

Why Should You Attend?

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• MOSTARS-Missouri Student Assistance
• Rural Missouri, Inc.
• Default Prevention
• Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma

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GRAND PRIZE 1-$500 & 2-$250 scholarships

See registration table for scholarship info; students must attend fair.

Student teachers receive reception

BY MICHELLE CONTY
Associate Editor

Hands on experience and first-hand knowledge await the 84 prospective student teachers from Missouri Southern who begin their student teaching Feb. 28.

Each semester, the education department holds a reception and orientation for cooperating teachers, college supervisors, principals, superintendents, college faculty and pre-service teachers.

"It is really an opportunity for our student teachers, who will begin student teaching Feb. 28, to meet with their cooperating teachers," said Dr. Brenda Roberts, director of clinical and field experiences. "This is generally the first time they meet."

"I'm looking forward to being in the classroom," said Lindsey Winter, senior special education major.

"We learn so much about methods in the classroom. I look forward to actually teaching."

Administration on campus is sent special invitations to attend the reception.

This is the student teachers first professional event. It is an opportunity for them to make a first impression on the profession they will be working with during their careers.

Students will be spending 10 weeks at more than 20 area schools, including Springfield and Kansas City.

"From what I understand, the reception is to meet with cooperating teachers and the college staff who will be observing their student teachers, in a comfortable atmosphere," said Izetta Osmond, senior secondary education major.

"We provide a dinner and it's a chance for everyone to sit down and get to know each other before they begin student teaching," Roberts said.

The semester prior to their professional semesters, students begin preparations by filling out paperwork and deciding districts where they want to student teach.

"I contact those area school districts on behalf of the student," Roberts said.

"But the matches are really made by the school district. They know their teachers, who has enough experience and would be a good role model for our student teachers."

Southern's teacher education program has earned a high reputation at local school districts.

"They know they will get a high caliber, quality teacher," Roberts said.

"Although I will be student teaching in Monett, I will be meeting with administration and teachers from all over the area," Osmond said.

"It's a wonderful public relations move for the college."

"It's easy to sit in a classroom and absorb all the theories and dos and don'ts of teaching, but can I take it into the field and actually make it work?"

The reception began at 6 p.m. with a welcome from Dr. Michael Horvath, dean of the school of education. Roberts did an overview of clinical and field experiences.

Southern News Briefs

Southern hosts week on eating disorders

"Love Your Body, Treat It Well" Week takes place Feb. 24-28 at Missouri Southern as part of National Eating Disorders Week Feb. 24-March 2.

At 10 p.m., Monday, Feb. 24, a PBS documentary, "Perfect Illusions," will be aired

At 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, the movie *Dying to be Thin* will be shown in the Student Life Center TV room. The movie will be followed by group discussion.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, the Treat Your Body Well Fair will take place on the second floor of Billingsly Student Center. "Body Talk," a fashion show with speakers, will also take place at 7 p.m. in Taylor Auditorium.

Fearless Friday Feb. 28 occurs all across the country. The day is reserved for rebelling against dieting and pressure to look a certain way.

Saturday, March 1, and Sunday, March 2, anyone can see the art exhibit "A Room with a View" or take part in the Great Jeans Giveaway at the Northpark Mall.

Festival's fifth film set for Tuesday

Destiny is the fifth program of the 41st Annual International Film Festival by the Missouri Southern Film Society.

The program is a German silent film. Director Fritz Lang used varied camera angles, chiaroscuro lighting and a slow tempo that allowed the camera to emphasize each composition to tell his story.

Destiny was one of the first German films to win international acclaim. The philosophy of this "fairy tale" reflects the German mood in the 1920s of pessimism, defeat of the individual, romantic melancholia and the role of fate in ordering human lives. The film will be shown at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday in Matthews Hall Auditorium.

Single admissions at the door are $2 for adults and $1.50 for senior citizens or students.

The Institute of International Studies assisted in providing financial assistance for the International Film Festival.

Missouri Constitution review, test in April

The Missouri Constitution Test will be offered this semester for students who need to take it in order to graduate.

The review for the test is at 12:20 p.m., Tuesday, April 15. The test is at 12:20 p.m., Tuesday, April 29. Both the review and test take place in Webster Hall, Room 210.

All out-of-state students who plan to graduate in May 2003, July 2003 or December 2003 who have not taken U.S. government or state and local government at a Missouri college should see Pat Martin, Hearnes Hall, Room 318, on or before April 10 to sign up to take the test.

Students taking this test must pay a $5 fee to the business office, Hearnes Hall, Room 210, prior to taking the test. The receipt must be presented to the instructor when entering the test room.

Saltzman schedules book signing Feb. 28

Dr. Arthur Saltzman, professor of English and the author of eight books, will sign copies of his new book, *Objects and Empathy*, from 6-8 p.m. Feb. 28 at Hastings Book Store.

Hastings is located at Seventh and Range Line Road.

The book, a collection of essays on literature, is the winner of the First Series Creative Nonfiction Award from Mid-List Press.

Members of the public are invited to the book signing to meet Saltzman, have books autographed and discuss literature and literary criticism.

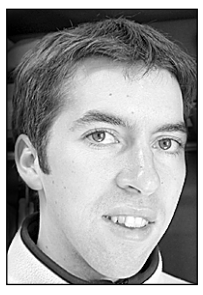
Editor's Column

Travel opportunities, life's stepping stones

When I say I'm from Idaho, land of the potatoes, many people ask why I came all the way to Missouri.

It wasn't for Joplin.

Sure, this area can be nice, but I don't plan on staying too long after completing college.



Andy Tevis
Director of Photography

Like many other students, I consider Missouri Southern a stepping stone. A stepping stone to where?

Maybe across the world.

The reason I chose to attend this college was the College's international mission (along with the opportunity to work for *The Chart*). Southern has an impressive selection of international study opportunities.

In January, the College's Institute of International Studies was given national recognition with an award for "Internationalizing the Campus" from the Institute of International Education.

I think it's sad that many students don't seem to appreciate the international mission that our Southern has.

Over winter break, I was given the opportunity of a lifetime to visit Cuba through a trip organized by the College. I learned more about the country in one week than I ever could through classes or books. Traveling outside the United States definitely can change a person's outlook on the world.

People who have traveled abroad seem to have an increased sensitivity to the cultural differences and similarities throughout the world.

I know not all students are able to travel due to personal circumstances.

However, Southern seems to do nearly everything possible to make these trips affordable and available to students. Many students are eligible for grants that help cover the costs of these trips.

Studying abroad might be the best way to learn about the world's different cultures, but by no means is it the only way. Since I've been here, I've seen quite an array of speakers, educators and performers visit the campus.

I've also realized there's much that can be learned about the world right here on campus through the exchange students that attend the College.

It's interesting to hear an outsider's opinion on the American culture, politics and people.

I hope other students can learn to better appreciate Southern's international focus. In times like these, it's never been more important that Americans understand the different cultures of the world.

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE

THE CHART

Missouri Southern State College,
3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, Mo. 64801-1595

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Letters to the editor must be signed originals and include the writer's address and phone number for verification. Letters should not exceed 300 words. *The Chart* reserves the right to edit or refuse letters on the basis of length, clarity, accuracy and liability. Letters will be chosen for publication by *The Chart* editors according to space considerations.

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— WAINTI FEMALE ROOM MUST BE THIN RENT NEGOTI CONTACT JIM-62

Diversity awareness needed

Chart Opinion

Black History Month is being recognized all across the country, but you sure wouldn't notice it at Missouri Southern.

The month of February is designated to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans, but virtually nothing is being done to celebrate diversity at Southern.

Southern Impact and the Campus Activities Board should be applauded as the only groups making an effort. Southern Impact helped with the Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast and is working with CAB to bring Malik Cooper, of "The Real World: Back to New York," to the College to speak on diversity.

Notice, however, that neither event takes place in February. The breakfast was Jan. 20, and Cooper will not speak until March 5 due to scheduling conflicts. That aside, why isn't more being done?

Many people say the celebration of black history should not be limited to one month; it should be recognized year round on campus. True, but that obviously does not happen. So during this month, Southern needs to create more awareness.

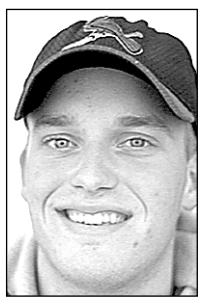
A famous African-American, Langston Hughes, was born in Joplin. Luckily, through the efforts of the English department, his accomplishments do not go unnoticed. The English department sponsored a beautiful celebration of Hughes Feb. 13 in Matthews Hall Auditorium.

Many other campus organizations should follow the example of the few groups trying to make Black History Month more visible on campus.

Small strides like this have to be made before the giant leap of integrating black history into American culture can happen.

Campus Voice

How can we celebrate Black History Month?



"Invite influential black speakers and make a major push for more student involvement."

Brad Wilson
Freshman
Business
Major

"I think we should have a guest speaker, like a historian, to talk about the past."

Amy Rainey
Freshman
History
Major

"I think we should have some form of cultural show, demonstrating black history in the United States."

Zacharia Loum
Sophomore
Political Science and Economics
Major

"I think we should have guest speakers come on campus. The more activities, the better."

Tasha Leaming
Sophomore
Criminal Justice
Major

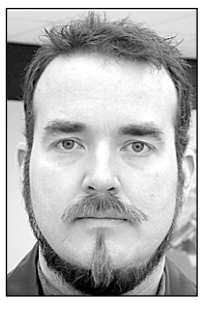
"Have lectures and a forum for students and faculty alike to discuss and celebrate black history."

Todd Eaton
Senior
Mass Communication
Major

In Perspective

Avoid emotionally-driven overgeneralizations about travel

I was pleased to see an article on international travel safety appear in last week's issue of *The Chart*, but was troubled, however, by some of the unsubstantiated assertions made by an official of the Missouri Southern, who argued that some countries are safer than others.



Dr. Karl Schmidt
Associate Professor of History

If Costa Rica is "obviously" safe as was claimed, then why does the U.S. State Department Web site warn us that "in recent years, several Americans have been murdered in Costa Rica?" And if Vancouver is "no problem," then why does the same State Department Web site caution us that U.S. vehicles "have been regularly targeted for opportunistic smash-and-grab thefts?" And if Paris is supposedly safe, then why is it that the State Department warns us that "gangs of thieves operate on the rail link from Charles de Gaulle Airport to downtown Paris by preying on jet-lagged, luggage-burdened tourists?"

Of the countries to which trips are planned, the only one mentioned as problematic is India. Why? Ostensibly, it's because of proximity to Iraq. But my students will be in Hyderabad, which is actually 26 miles farther from Baghdad than Paris is. So, my students really won't be "closer to the action" as purported in the article.

What does the State Department say about India? In recent years, there have been terrorist incidents in India, but the State Department informs us that no Americans were involved, and indeed, "no reliable pattern has emerged in these attacks; nor is there any indication that they are directed against Americans or other foreigners." Compared to what the State Department says about the other countries in question, India seems appreciably safer.

From what I've just outlined, some may come to the conclusion that perhaps Americans should just stay home. The crux of this mode of thinking is the spurious perception that staying closer to home is inherently safer than going overseas. In the wake of Sept. 11, many Americans are convinced that the odds of being injured or killed by terrorists is higher overseas than here at home. The facts, however, don't support this belief.

Americans aren't at a higher risk when going overseas — even to India. Based on a recent State Department report, of the 195 Americans who died of non-natural causes overseas in 2002, only eight were killed by terrorists. That's less than 5 percent of the total killed, for those interested in percentages. By contrast, in that same year, 19 Americans (nearly 10 percent) committed suicide overseas.

When we look at specific countries, our misperceptions about relative safety also seem to founder. Although only one American died in Canada last year (killed in a natural disaster), two died in Costa Rica (both suicides). Five Americans were killed in a train accident in France.

By contrast, only two Americans died last year in India, and neither death was due to terrorism or murder. In light of these facts, is India really less safe than Costa Rica, Canada or France?

So, what's the lesson here? Well, frankly, that we should avoid emotionally-driven and anecdotal overgeneralizations about the risks of both international travel and terrorism. Life itself is inherently risky, but as the National Safety Council points out, we Americans are statistically far more likely to suffer the ignominious end of choking to death on our own vomit than dying in an act of terrorism, whether at home or overseas.

Peace Corps sends recruiter to campus

BY CRAIG JONES
Staff Writer

If graduation is looming, but an available job is not, volunteer service may bridge the gap.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies, has invited Peace Corps recruiter Joe Zucchini to visit the campus.

"We're always looking for more international opportunities for our students and graduates," Stebbins said.

"Sometimes students have difficulty seeing a clear career path. They think, 'So, I have a degree in international studies ... what can I do with it?'"

Stebbins said volunteering in the Peace Corps allows persons to immerse themselves in a new culture, learn a new language and gain valuable work experience.

Zucchini said the mission of the Peace Corps is to provide citizens of developing nations with the technical expertise necessary for advancement, as well as to promote a cross-cultural understanding between the volunteers and the populations they serve.

He is careful to point out that volunteers are not "missionaries" trying to shape a culture to benefit America's interests.

"We send people over with no agenda, except to serve humanitarian needs," Zucchini said.

"You become part of their family and their community.

"You are one of them. It dispels a lot of the myths [about Americans]."

Zucchini said volunteers work in agriculture, education, environmental science, urban development and many other areas.

"It's so important at this time for Americans to reach out to the rest of the world in the name of service, kindness and peace," Zucchini said. "The Peace Corps is playing a crucial role on the world stage on many levels."

Dr. Allen Merriam, professor of communications, was a Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan from 1965 to 1967.

He taught English in a high school and worked part time at Radio Afghanistan.

"It's definitely a life-changing experience," Merriam said. "It gives you a new perspective and broadens your outlook.

"It's a person-to-person relationship. You go to another country, learn their language and try to live according to their lifestyle."

Zucchini said there are two Southern graduates currently serving in the Peace Corps.

Janet Beauchamp, a 1990 criminal justice graduate, is serving in Bulgaria.

Kelsi Harris, a 2001 pre-veterinary graduate, is serving in Gambia, a west-African nation smaller than Connecticut.

Persons interested in learning about the Peace Corps can meet with Zucchini from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday at the Billingsly Student Center near the food court.

There will also be an informational meeting and video presentation from 6-8 p.m. Monday in the BSC, Room 310.

Struggle for power continues

The dictatorial regime of Milosevic was strong against any attempt of overturn. It required a majority of political parties to unite together around the idea of collapsing Milosevic's government.

Kosta Savic
Contributing Writer

They called on people for revolution and to fight for their future.

However, once the united parties succeeded, they started fighting among themselves for their own political programs and the leadership of the country.

Leaders of the Vojvodina region are following the example of previous states and looking for separation from Serbia. However, the rest of the parties are objecting to further divisions.

The same situation is happening with the state of Montenegro where opposition leaders are taken off the governmental functions due to activities that supported separatism. Therefore, they were blamed for espionage and sexual misconduct as propaganda to gain the public's favoritism of their decisions. This seems to be a common practice, where political leaders are charging each other with accusations that are hard to investigate.

They are doing so in order to take them off their political functions and reduce their influencing power. On the other hand, political parties are blaming President Kostunica for an ignorant attitude for newly developed situations. They are accusing him of being on top of the political pyramid and still remaining completely uninformed. The country faced many scandals that attacked the integrity of the republic government, while the president still was uninformed, even during the arrest of the ex-president, Milosevic.

The leading political party, Democratic Opposition of Serbia, is splitting into two different directions.

One is headed by the Yugoslavian president, Vojislav Kostunica, while the other by Serbian prime minister, Zoran Djindjic.

This collapse of the leading political party reveals the facts about differences in understanding and attitudes toward the key problems of the country. The primary dispute is about International War Crime Court at Hag and the wanted list.

Those people are currently holding high political and military positions. They were active members of Milosevic's government, and they helped overturn Milosevic's dictatorship. In exchange, they signed secret pacts with current leaders of political parties as protections that they will not be send to Hag.

Such treaties are limiting the current government in approaching reforms. On the other hand, the main goal is the removal of criminal activities of the ex-government regime.

At the same time, many other issues are confronting the newly formed government. There is the existence of the ongoing problem of Kosovo, where nobody can even conceive a functional solution.

People are left with their problems, no hope and at the same time, expected to continue their lives like nothing happened. It is perceived that the international community is the only one striving to find a peaceful solution when neither side will ever be satisfied and agree upon terms of peace.

Special to The Chart

The open market is Yugoslavia's version of Wal-Mart. It's where the people buy their basic needs.

Corruption of the legal system is another problem where people win their cases with open and publicly announced briberies. However, judges are never taken off their duties and punished for such criminal activities.

Overall, the crisis in the economy led to inflation, massive layoffs, strikes and decreased efficiency.

Recently, liberalized media are still walking the road of the previous regime and reporting news in unprofessional way.

At the same time, media are being taken to court for their freedom of expression.

Furthermore, the autonomy of universities did not exist until recently where students still did not have the right to form and operate student organizations. However, problems still continue to arise.

The international community is concerned about military problems.

The mafia is still obviously nesting its deal with the government. This is very often in relationships with members of paramilitary troops and war crimes in previous wars.

Serbia is still finding massive graveyards across the republic as a cover up of deeds of the old government regime. However, there are many other problems that are requiring immediate attention and reconstruction.

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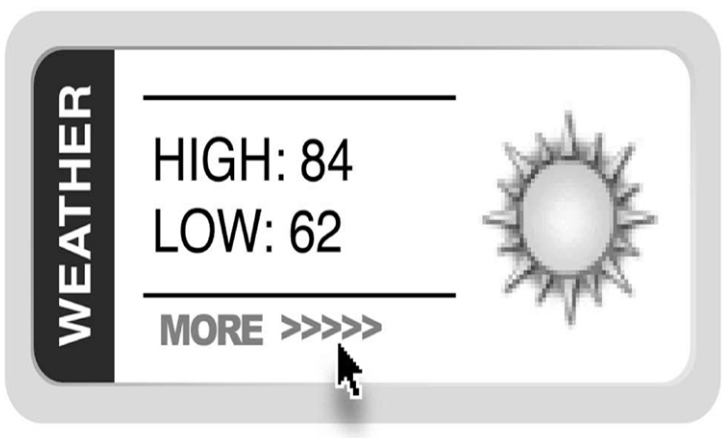

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Back in the Act

Rock bands return for taking of air waves

They're back after long, and not so long, absences, and they're ready to rock their fans some more. It's about time, too.

Six bands are about to release CDs. Of course, as with any amount of releases, as the listeners of today's rock bands, we can't really expect all of the new albums to be good, can we? So, dear reader, let's look on and see just what the wonderful music industry has to offer us over the next few months.

Linkin Park

They've released only two albums in their career as a professional rock group, and only one of those was an original. When *Hybrid Theory* was released in 2000, Linkin Park introduced a new type of music to the rocking masses. The album boasted a smooth and sweet combination of rap, rock and maybe a little pop thrown in for good measure. The CD took the nation by storm, and then the group seemed to just disappear for two years. Its next CD, *Reanimation*, was just that, trying to make something long gone come back. The album consisted of remixes of the previously released tracks.

Hopefully *Meteora*, which is slated for release on March 25, will see Chester Bennington and the gang back from their much-too-long hiatus to retake the air waves and rock on some more. Hopefully, they can pull the same magic they did with their first album and make another album with wonderfully mingled rock, rap and melody. If they can, they have a great shot at securing the position on the charts they grabbed almost three years ago. The first single off of the upcoming release is called "Somewhere I Belong." It really sounds like they'll be keeping up with their former hit "My December."

Godsmack

With a name like that, how can this group not be awesome?

Just kidding, not really, anyway. The voodoo gods are back with their third album, which they're calling *Faceless*. Since *Godsmack* was released in 1999, the group has made its name with a number of head rocking songs from "Voodoo" to "Bad Religion," and then on their next album, "Awake" and "Greed" came forth in a

bang of hard guitars and catchy lyrics.

One thing that does suck about this band, though, is that aside from "Voodoo," it doesn't really change up the way its songs sound. Yeah, the beats and music and lyrics change, but this doesn't really seem to be the type of band that can go from fast to slow and loud to soft in any short matter of time. Its new CD doesn't seem to be expected to sound any different.

Oh well, these guys know how to put their anger toward whatever — religion, greedy landowners, etc. — straight into their hard-hitting lyrics. Let's hope Sully Erna, the band's front man, keeps up the good work.

The album is scheduled to come out on April 8.

Limp Bizkit

Lessismore is the name of the album, and less is probably all we can expect from Limp Bizkit, especially since it lost one of the music industry's best and most colorful guitarists, Wes Borland.

This album will be the first album released by the group after Borland left. Let's not set our hopes too high on this one. Since we first witnessed Fred Durst's crew's debut to the music industry with *Three Dollar Bill, Y'all* in 1997, we have seen the group go from thrashing rock, to more subtle hip-hoppish with *Significant Other*, and then completely popish with *Chocolate Starfish and The Hot Dog Flavored Water* in 2000.

So what can we honestly expect from the group that stays on the charts by doing what most musicians would probably frown on (you know, just being crowd pleasers)? I would say not much at all, if any.

We can hope this album will suck, and maybe we'll get lucky and Durst will find a different choice of career. But of course, if it's pop, it'll be bought. Therefore, I want to thank you people who will buy this album on May 13 for keeping this group around to annoy us all for a little while longer.

Powerman 5000

OK, this is one group that does not get near as much attention as it deserves.

With Rob Zombie's little brother Spider One at the helm of these madmen, they have been rocking like there's no tomorrow since their first album, *The Blood Splat Rating System*, in 1995. Since that first release, they have really only had one other album that received any amount of attention whatsoever, and that was with *Tonight The Stars Revolt!* The title track on that album, along with "When Worlds Collide" were more than just decent songs and got what they warranted — plenty of radio play.

Unfortunately, their fame seemed to end there. The next and most recent album, *Anyone for Doomsday?*, was released after numerous delays with what seemed like little or no attention.

With any luck, or just with the skill the group possesses to insane amounts, Spider will rock this album to the top of the play lists in no time at all. At least with no good band releasing an album at the same time, the group will have a better chance. Let us pray for that.

Oh yeah, the colorful name for this album is *Transform*, and it's hitting the streets on May 20.

Metallica

Hoorah, ladies and gentlemen, the money hungry boys are back in town.

This will be the kings of metal's eighth studio release. It will be their first one in almost five years, at which time they had released *Reload*. Anybody wonder if Metallica even has the power to rock anymore?

Honestly, I do. They lost their bassist, Jason Newsted, awhile ago, and he still hasn't really been replaced. When they released the song for the *Mission Impossible 2* soundtrack, it sounded like they too had even gone a little bit pop. And then there's the fact that for a while they seemed to be suing everyone and everything in site. The band seems to basically have gone to crap.

With the release of *St. Anger* on June 10, we'll see if their music has gone there as well.

(hed) p.e.

They say you save the best for last, and that's exactly what I've done.

Of all the albums being released this year, this one is getting a lot of hype. "Blackout" is the first single (and the title track) off the album, and it has been receiving a fair amount of radio play, at least on the local rock stations, whatever that means.

One thing that really sets (hed) apart from other bands of this era is the fact that it has the ability to go from head pounding rifts to bumpin' rap beats and then slow it down even more to a slow melody. And it can do it all in the time it takes a song to play!

Basically, these guys rock. If the single is any hint as to what the rest of the album will sound like, we can expect the best from this group. This will be (hed)'s third album, and if it follows the group's own pattern, this one will be better than the last two.

In Review

Josh Ray
Diversions Editor

In case you're wondering then, if you only have enough money to buy one CD over the next five months, spend that money on March 18 on (hed) p.e. Trust me, you'll enjoy it. Would I lead you astray?

Regional boxing knocks way into Joplin's Memorial Hall

By Matt Caufield
Staff Writer

Memorial Hall and the Joplin Sports Authority is sure to bring a knock out.

The Authority will host the USA Boxing Heartland Regional at Memorial Hall. Semifinals will be held Feb. 28 and the finals will be held March 1. Eleven bouts an evening are scheduled.

"Joplin is a great venue," said Ralph Friend, referee and chairman of the Heartland Regional. "The facility is great. The Joplin Sports Authority is fantastic to work with, especially Mike Greninger.

It's a great event because of Joplin Sports Authority and what they do to promote."

"This is the fourth year we have held USA Boxing," said Greninger, the Authority's executive director.

USA Boxing is the governing organization for boxing in the United States. Its headquarters are stationed out of Colorado Springs.

The Heartland Regional is comprised of amateur boxers from the Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma areas, Greninger said.

"Each state has had their own tournaments to determine who the champions are, and those champions fight in Joplin," Friend said.

Friend said the boxers have to choose numbers to determine opponents on semifinals night.

"Those winners go to the national championships in Colorado," he said. "There is only one step higher, and that is the Olympic team."

Many of the boxers are competing for a position on the U.S. Olympic team and some will turn pro, Greninger said.

"The sport of boxing is strong in our community," Greninger said. "This is a way for us to give back to that boxing community.

"We wanted to bring boxing to Joplin that could be an affordable event to entertain the family."

"I think it's a good deal to have new stuff to do in Joplin instead of the same old thing," said John Collins, sophomore pre-pharmacy major.

Cost of admission both nights is $5 for adults and $3 for students ages 7-18 and senior citizens.

As long as the community supports boxing, the Authority will continue to bring boxing to Joplin, Greninger said.

Individuals with questions may contact the Authority at 625-4792.

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(hed) p.e.'s new album Blackout is one of many CDs due out in the next few months. Read one editor's take on the releases.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Clockwise from top left, Joey Fletcher, David Pearson, Shannon Martinous, Stephanie Harter, Dusty Wooldridge, Robyn Eddy and Rachel Weisensee are acting in *Free to Be ... You and Me*. The play focuses on being one's own person and being happy.

Play centers on freedom of expression

BY LANDON FRY
Staff Writer

Big guys in pink, girls playing with trucks and jocks playing with dolls are just some of the role reversals portrayed in *Free to Be ... You and Me*.

The show, being put on by the Missouri Southern Theatre and Missouri Show-Me Celebration Company, will have its last two performances for schools Friday before its public shows begin at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in Taylor Auditorium.

For this show, student IDs will not be accepted for admittance.

Tickets are $1 for adults and 50 cents for children 12 and under.

The message of the children's musical is one of acceptance and freedom.

"No one else can tell you what you are," said Gerrie-Ellen Johnston, director and choreographer. "It's ridding oneself of gender-linked professions and being free and letting both sides, feminine and masculine, come out."

Erina Parks, senior theatre major and stage manager, thinks the subject matter of race, gender and sex are particularly relevant to the times.

"Things are happening and people don't really know what to do, which way to go," Parks said.

The actors, all of whom are Southern students, play children. Parks believes the set, a playground with slides, a sandbox, monkey bars and other equipment, helped the actors find their inner child.

"When they first started, it was like, 'OK, we're grown,' in a sense, but now they've just learned to let their inhibitions go," Parks said. "They just go with it, and I think they're having too much fun."

Though she said the set is simple, Parks thinks it doesn't need to be elaborate with the way the props are used.

"They make it bigger than what it is," Parks said. "They don't look at it for face value. They take it for everything they can use it for."

Parks said the show is more exciting with children in the audience.

"I think the kids are what make the show," she said. "And so mainly, the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday shows, there's that excitement, because kids aren't ashamed of the things they do."

Parks said sometimes the older crowds take more work to perform.

"Being older and mature you're like, 'hmm, I've got to act this way because I'm an adult,'" Parks said. "But with this show, it's like, so what if you like cartoons and stuff like that, that's fine, you know. If you want to yell and cheer with the kids, do that."

Johnston and Parks agreed they want children to interact with the show. The audience is even asked to participate.

"At the end, there are selected rows where they get the kids to dance around the auditorium to 'Free to Be,'" Johnston said.

She said the show is important for parents to show them to expose them to new ideas.

"It's entertaining," Johnston said. "There's music, and it may even educate the parents — to liberate the parents a bit, as well."

Overall, she wants the audience to leave with one thing.

"A land of freedom," Johnston said. "We want them to be uplifted and free of certain restrictions that perhaps they put on themselves."

Student group confirms comedian, speaker

BY JEFF REID
Executive Editor

Apologies across the board were the first order of business at Monday's Campus Activities Board meeting.

Julie Blackford, director of student activities, stated she was disappointed the proposed All American Rejects' concert fell through.

"As scared as I am of concerts, I apologize if I didn't seem supportive," Blackford said.

In upcoming events, Lyndse Bergen, family events chairperson, discussed plans for Family Day With the Lions, an event where families can come out and meet Missouri Southern athletes.

The event, scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday in Young Gymnasium, will feature free temporary tattoos, pom-poms and other novelties. The athletic department is also providing CAB with tickets for the evening's game.

"We want to help out the team," Bergen said, "and give families an event they can take their kids to."

Billy Burr has been confirmed as the comedian for Safe Spring Break and is scheduled to perform at 8 p.m. March 4 in the Billingsly Student Center. After confirming Burr for Safe Spring Break, Blackford showed a video featuring some of Burr's performances.

Also confirmed for the same week is Malik from the "Real World." Malik will be speaking on diversity and taking questions afterward. He is set to appear at 7 p.m. March 5 in Webster Hall Auditorium.

Koinonia had a representative present at the meeting asking CAB to help sponsor its yearly dance. The proposal was for $800, but no decision was made at the meeting, as some CAB members were under the impression the dance was for Koinonia members only.

The Wesley Foundation's proposed concert remains up in the air as no representatives were present and no commitment was made by Wesley to move the event on campus.

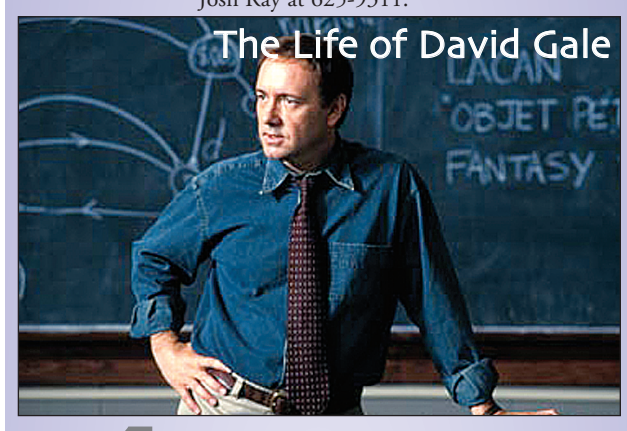
"I put the ball in their court," Blackford said.

Blackford again stated as long as the event was moved to an on-campus location, that she would have no problem giving Wesley the money.

The next CAB meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday in the second-floor lounge of the Billingsly Student Center.

Area Events

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Josh Ray at 625-9311.



21 *Dark Blue, Gods and Generals, The Life of David Gale and Old School* open at the Northstar 14 Theaters.

Lady Lions softball play @ University of Central Arkansas.

22 Lions and Lady Lions basketball play @ home vs Truman. Ladies play at 1 p.m., men at 3 p.m.

Lady Lions softball play again @ University of Central Arkansas.

Lions baseball play @ 11 a.m. at home vs Quincy.

CAB will be having a family day with the Lions.

The play *Free To Be... You and Me* opens. The play runs through Sunday night.

23 Lions baseball play @ noon at home vs Oklahoma Panhandle.

24 CAB meets @ 2 p.m. on the second floor of Billingsly.

25 Dr. Jeff Macomber's faculty recital will be held @ 7:30 p.m. in Webster Hall Auditorium.

There will be a faculty/staff health fair.

Koinonia will have a rally with Tommy Oaks @ 7 p.m. at College Heights.

26 Lions and Lady Lions basketball will play @ home vs. Missouri-Rolla. Ladies play at 5:30 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.

The CJSA will be having a chili cook-off from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Anderson Justice Center Room 125.

The BSU will be having a free lunch @ noon.

There will be another faculty/staff health fair.

Koinonia will have another rally with Tommy Oaks @ 7 p.m. at College Heights.

27 Koinonia will be having a free lunch @ noon in Anderson Justice Center.

The Konovets Quartet Lecture/Demo will be @ 1 p.m. in Webster Hall Auditorium.

And yet another faculty/staff health fair will be held.

Koinonia will be having yet another rally featuring Tommy Oaks @ 9 p.m.

Weekend Happenings:

Kitchen Pass::
Friday: Don Shipps 9:30 p.m.
Saturday: Chip Flatow (hypnotist) 9:30 p.m.

The Green Room::
Friday: The Sound and the Fury 9 p.m.
Saturday: Gilberth Shire 9 p.m.

Useless Information

In Italy, a man can be arrested if he wears a skirt in public. (damn, there goes my Italian wardrobe)

The can opener was not invented until 48 years after the can. (before that, they used their teeth)

Nearly all pumpkins sold in the U.S. are used to make Jack-O-Lanterns. (except the ones I buy to throw at people and cars)

There is a southern French wine called Fat Bastard Chardonnay. (mmm... yummy)

NOTE: Most information for this section taken from www.amusingtrivia.com
So gripe to them, not me!

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HISTORY:

From Page 1

culture as part of the culture and not separate from the culture."

"I think [Black History Month] is something that should be celebrated all year long," said April Mundy, junior secondary education major. "It is something [the College] needs to pay more attention to."

Christi Gowen, junior political science major, suggested spotlighting Black History Month in the library with black authors, in Reynolds Hall with black mathematicians and in Spiva Art Gallery with influential black artists.

"It represents a time to learn about and celebrate the life and times of black historical figures," she said.

"Black history shows for me, personally, what my background is, what my heritage is," Givens said.

In the education department, Faine said she gears some of her assignments toward student exposure to African-American contributions, so her students can go on to teach about black history when they become teachers. She also is involved in a project at the George Washington Carver monument in Diamond. To learn about Black History Month, one can go to http://creativefolk.com/black-history.htm.

MSIPC:

From Page 1

student at Southern."

Hukill was on the screening jury that selected Yu's tape and 34 others from the more than 100 entries into the piano competition.

"When we were watching his tape, it was easy to say yes," she said.

He had just turned 14 when he entered the competition.

"I go to concerts in surrounding areas, Kansas City, Tulsa, Springfield, and to have something come to you, right here for so little, the tickets are very reasonable, it's a wonderful treat," Hukill said.

"The competition is an amazing cultural experience. I hope everyone realizes what is in Joplin. We have wonderful musicians coming here. It gives all of us a boost and helps boost interest in the arts."

Yu practices three to four hours a day during the week and eight to 10 hours a day on the weekend.

He was in the chess club at his high school, but he said he has little time for extra activities.

"I like to play video games too, but I don't have that much time," Yu said. "I need to sacrifice. I don't have the time to do that much school work, although I'm on the honor role."

He attends half a day of public high school, allowing him time in the afternoon for piano practice.

Yu's 13-year-old sister also plays the piano.

"She's more balanced academically and athletically, not like me with only the piano," he said. "She plays table tennis and will compete in the Junior Winter Olympics in New Brunswick this year."

He and his sister don't compete against each other in competitions because they are in different age groups.

In elementary school, Yu played the violin, but he gave it up to devote more time to piano.

Originally from Hong Kong where he began his piano studies at age 5, Yu and his family moved to Vancouver in 1997 where he currently studies with instructor Kut Kau Sum.

In addition to winning MSIPC in 2002, he won the Seattle Youth Concerto Competition and the National Final of the Canadian Music Competition in 2001. He recently returned from China after earning fourth prize in the Fourth Tchaikovsky International Competition for Young Musicians. As the winner of such competitions, Yu has performed with orchestras including the Seattle Youth Symphony Classical Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra in China.

In 1999, at age 11, he won the Grand Prize Scholarship at the Richmond Music Festival. He was selected as the Vancouver National Representative for the National Music Festival and was first runner up in the British Columbia Association of Performing Arts Festival in 2001.

Yu performs on a new CD featuring the 2002 MSIPC winners in live performance. The CD will be available at the concert and in Hastings next week. The concert is 7:30 p.m. Friday in Webster Hall Auditorium.

SYRINGES:

From Page 1

es, Richardson would have stored the materials in a bunker until a disposal unit came and took it.

"Since it was drug residue, we just turned it over to them," Richardson said.

"Because this could be linked to a possible crime, we turned it over to them," Kennedy said.

On Feb. 18, officials with JPD said they had no knowledge of the incident, and Officer Fred Deden, the JPD officer who picked up the syringes from the College, was not available for comment.

Kennedy said JPD will probably only conduct a "very, very little investigation." He doubted if it would test the residue to determine what it was.

"JPD probably didn't even check it out," Kennedy said. "Basically, it's their case."

Bob Harrington, director of the physical plant, said there was really nothing else Southern could do in this case.

"In this situation, there were no clues to notify us of who, when, where and why, so there was no place to go with it," he said.

Kennedy said there are no suspects in the matter.

"We don't know of any person that might have been in possession of it," he said.

"We don't know of any person that might have been in possession of it."

Ken Kennedy
Manager of Safety and Security

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Members of the Student Senate visited the Capitol Feb. 18 to discuss issues facing Missouri Southern with area legislators.

Virginia Fairchild/The Chart

Southern students invade Capitol

BY VIRGINIA FAIRCHILD
State News Editor

Members of the Student Senate invaded the Capitol Feb. 18 on a quest for insight on the issues facing Missouri Southern.

Following a photo shoot with the Joplin and surrounding areas' legislators, the students engaged in a round table discussion on the progress of the bills affecting the College.

Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin) reported on the status of his bill, Senate Bill 55, that would change the College into a university.

Debate on SB55 hit the Senate floor Monday, and Nodler said he expects the bill to be resolved out of the Senate by the end of the week. The bill passed through the Senate Feb. 19.

"If passed, it gives the House two vehicles to work from," he said.

On the House side, all the name change bills have been combined into one.

"The problem with all the schools on the same bill is that there is a big turf war going on between MU and SMS," said Rep. Steve Hunter (R-Joplin).

The students were also interested in hearing the legislators' opinions on the budget problem.

Hunter said the dilemma with the budget is finding out where all the money is hidden.

"The budget is linked with the tobacco legislation," Nodler said. "The governor has chosen to marry those issues."

The legislators in the room were all in agreement that using the tobacco money to fix the budget is not the best way to pick up the slack.

The atmosphere lightened when legislators joked about their age in relation to the year the tobacco bond debt (if legislation is passed) will be completely paid for.

"It's just spending more one-time money to get through a budget crisis," said Edgar G.H. Emery (R-Lamar).

Nodler said the compromise is the least offensive way they could come up with.

Taxing is not how the House majority wants to fix the budget, Hunter said.

"We're looking at some pretty serious cuts next year," Hunter said.

He said what's difficult is that every program is a "sacred cow" to its advocates.

To deal with the task of determining who or what program attains funding, Rep. Kevin Wilson (R-Neosho) said the House is moving toward a "performance-based budget." He said every entity that desires money has to justify every penny.

"If you want it, tell me why, what you're going to do with it, and how it benefits the State," Wilson said.

In the Senate chamber, Nodler said they are using a cost-benefit analysis to determine who or what gets funding.

Emery told the Student Senate it needs to keep in mind that although the budget is $19 billion this year, 10 years ago it was $9 billion. Revenues have gone up 68 percent and funding for education has increased by 148 percent.Emery said this budget crisis is not a new thing.

"This hole has been dug for at least five years," he said. "It just was recently announced."

He told the students he remembers when he was in college, he didn't worry about the budget or the state government.

"It is now your problem because it affects your institution," Emery said.

Zack Odem, president of Student Senate, asked legislators what makes higher education more dispensable than elementary and secondary education. Hunter explained that while higher education is important, it's also an extra. Attending grades K-12, however, is the law.

Nodler added the state has the power to affect the revenue of higher educational institutions, but he believes there is an overreliance on cuts to the department.

Doug Carnahan, dean of students, asked why higher education was getting more of the budget ax than other programs.

"There are places where cuts are more dramatic than anything education has seen," he said.

Emery told the group the budget is made up of social services and education, and those two butt heads.

Hunter said the state government does three things: educates, builds and maintains roads and bridges and provides safety.

"All the rest is gravy," he said. "We have to decide where to cut."

"You have to take from one to feed the other; they can't both be fed," Emery said.

Besides clearing the fog on some of the issues facing the College, legislators also explained certain aspects of the process that are usually misunderstood.

"The only person who can withhold a dime sits in the governor's mansion," Wilson said.

He said when it is said the legislature passes cuts, it's a "blatant" misinterpretation.

Rep. Marilyn Ruestman (R-Joplin) said she believes in letting people do what they want with their money instead of obligating all of it for taxes.

"I want to leave a little money in your pocket," she said.

"You ought to have the chance in this country to get an education, use and have a little fun with it."

Ruestman told the students to always remember the area legislators are on their side.

"We'll vote with our hearts," she said, "and our hearts are with you."

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Portions of Highway 71 will be named after the late Trooper Charles Corbin.

Highway 71 memorializes late Missouri patrolman

BY VIRGINIA FAIRCHILD
State News Editor

Part of Highway 71 within Jasper County may soon be memorialized.

Sen. Jon Dolan (R-St. Charles County) is sponsoring legislation to rename a portion of the highway after Trooper Charles P. Corbin of St. Charles County. Corbin, who died in 1943, was the fourth Missouri State Highway Patrolman to perish in the line of duty and the first to be killed in a vehicle accident. This is the 60th anniversary of his death.

"Despite the number of years that have passed since the trooper's death, it doesn't lessen the gratitude for this particular man," said Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin).

Dolan said his intention is not to rename the entire highway, but to just re-sign an area near the site of Corbin's death.

"You'll just see a selection of signs around a certain corridor on 71 that would complement the area and illustrate the importance of remembering people like Trooper Corbin," Dolan said.

Corbin patrolled Jasper County around the time of World War II.

"I think our doing a memorial highlights the importance of such service and the importance of recognizing how much troopers do for us when no one else is around," Dolan said. "It's just a proper way to show support for where these troopers served."

Senate Bill 289 will be placed on the consent calendar and is most likely going to be passed through both the Senate and the House as consent bills, he said.

Dolan said since the cost is minimal, it will be easily absorbed. The Trooper's Association will also donate money to go toward the signs.

"There are many bills through my committee to memorialize the heroes that are part of the troopers in the community that have died in the line of duty," Dolan said.

"We are trying to select an area that's very fitting for a memorial and show that we care about people who serve like he did."

Students learn to deal with budget concerns, voice opinions on topic

BY VIRGINIA FAIRCHILD
State News Editor

Students around campus might directly be affected by cuts made to higher education.

Gov. Bob Holden said he will cut $82 million from public schools and institutions of higher education if lawmakers don't OK the selling of more than $150 million in tobacco bonds.

Although students aren't lobbying daily for or against the legislation, some still have an opinion.

"Being an education major, I believe education is very important," said Janelle Starchman, senior music education major.

"Education is what creates our future working force. Education is the future, and without it, our future is not very promising."

Starchman said she understands the economy is going through a rocky time, but she believes that if education funding goes down, the economy won't prosper in the future.

Steve Reed, senior general studies major, said he doesn't think using the tobacco money to fix the budget will work.

"He's (Gov. Bob Holden) just using another one-time patch instead of fixing the problem," he said. "I wish he'd get his priorities straight."

Shauna Hurst, senior dental hygiene major, said her program has seen many cuts due to lack of money it has received.

"We've not reaped any benefits," she said.

If cuts do occur, tuition could be one of the ways Missouri Southern covers the gap in expenses.

Hurst said even if Southern does hike tuition, she will continue to attend, because the College is the most convenient institution that also carries her degree.

"For me, this is the best place to go," she said. "But, it depends on your major."

Jennifer Griest, senior biology major, said despite the fact the College might have to raise tuition, she wouldn't go anywhere else.

"The cuts are something you just have to deal with," she said.

"Going somewhere else isn't going to save you any money, because if they take from us, won't they take from everyone else, too?"

Ross Brown, senior history major, said although he doesn't care for the current condition of the budget, he's looking forward to the possibility of attending a university.

"Any budget cut is bad," Brown said. "But, the name change will be good. It's going to spiffy up the College."

April Stanley, senior international studies major, confesses her opinion is a bit biased, but believes education should be a top priority of the state.

"Education should be one of the last things to cut," she said.

Shoji Noro, senior psychology major, said he doesn't understand why the College is spending money on things like the new turf for the football field when there's not a lot of money to spare.

"I don't know why they don't spend what money we do have equally across campus," he said.

"I wouldn't want to be the governor right now," said Donna Griffin, senior history major.

"What he's doing isn't right. All he's doing is hurting the future of the state when he takes from education."

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

University status inches to reality

Senate Bill 55, sponsored by Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin) passed the Senate Feb. 19.

The bill now passes to the House of Representatives. If the it is passed without changes in the House, it will move directly to Gov. Holden's desk.

Signing the bill into law would change Missouri Southern State College into Missouri Southern State University-Joplin.

On the House side, all the name change bills have been combined into one.

Universities host fair on economy

The University of Missouri-Columbia Departments of Economic Development and Economics, along with the Truman School of Public Affairs, hosted a conference discussing the state's economic growth on Feb. 20 at the Truman Building in Jefferson City.

Presenters included economists from the Federal Reserve Banks in Kansas City and St. Louis, as well as from the university and the state Department of Economic Development.

Appropriations bill aids Greene County

As part of the appropriation bill to aid Springfield-Greene County projects, $3 million was approved to build a parking structure on the Southwest Missouri State University campus.

The structure will be able to accommodate 1,240 vehicles and be located at the corner of Grand and Holland streets.

Mizzou preserves minority program

Among accusations of discriminating against white students, the University of Missouri-Columbia has decided to keep its Transitions program for incoming minority students.

The program has been in place since 1994 and invites minority students each summer for a six-week program involving math, English, cultural and social classes.

The university pays the students' room, board and tuition.

Report calculates public school funds

A recent report, called the "Calculation of the Cost of An Adequate Education in Missouri," stated Missouri needs to increase the amount of money it spends on each child attending public schools.

The study's results were distributed to lawmakers and said Missouri should have spent at least $5,428 per pupil for a basic education. The state currently spends approximately $4,100 per student.

Bond announces appropriations bill

Sen. Kit Bond (R-Mo.) announced he has secured $254 million for a variety of Missouri projects in this year's Omnibus Appropriations bill.

The bill is expected to pass the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate with ease.

The money secured by Bond will fund a number of high priority Missouri conservation, transportation, environmental, agriculture and housing priorities.

The money was secured in hopes of boosting the state economy.

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Doctor talks about dangers of the sun

PRIME PLUS/Red Hot Mamas will hold a meeting at 7 p.m., Monday in the St. John's Mercy Conference Center.

Dr. Derek Towery will give a speech on "sun hazards and medications" with a question and answer period to follow.

For information, contact St. John's Referral One at 625-2000 or 800-638-7081.

Local recycle center ends its third year

The Joplin Recycling Center has completed its third year of operation, citing "very impressive" numbers.

The Center collected more than 463 tons of recyclable material, which was turned into other usable wares, including compost packing peanuts.

Both are available free to the public.

The Center is operating under winter hours right now, which are 2-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The Center is located at 1310 W. A St. For information, persons may call 624-0820, ext. 501.

National Guard camp helps out Army post

The Missouri National Guard's Camp Crowder will begin processing and training mobilized soldiers to support Ft. Leonard Wood.

Ten Missouri National Guard members have been placed on active duty to support the mobilization.

Camp Crowder will effectively be a substation of Fort Leonard Wood. They will help the Army post with the large number of mobilized soldiers passing through its gates.

Camp Clark, in Nevada, will also be made available to Ft. Leonard Wood if necessary.

Bill Shepherd/The Chart

Charlene Gauthier, owner of Char's Java House, owned a trucking company before deciding to open the coffee house.

Char's Java House brews fresh ideas

BY KIMBERLY FEATHER
Staff Writer

A quiet, comfortable atmosphere where one can meet friends and enjoy good food may sound like the perfect place.

Char's Java House opened on Nov. 13, and Charlene Gauthier, owner of the coffee shop, promises a great place for everyone.

Gauthier is not new to the business world. She used to own her own trucking company and decided she was ready to stay home. When deciding what to do with her time, she realized she could not work for anyone else and decided to open her own coffee shop.

"I have always enjoyed coffee," Gauthier said. "I learned to explore my palette."

The coffee beans are locally grown and guaranteed to be fresh. Keen Bean is the roaster. He is also new to the business.

They have a variety of bulk beans people can buy and take home.

Gauthier said the coffee shop has been in progress for about two years. She said the uniqueness of her coffee and the location of her store are what give her a better start then other coffee shops in the past.

Customers agree Char's Java House is a great place to eat.

"They have the best coffee in town and the freshest sandwiches," said Trish Dixon, customer. "I love how they always put everything away when they are finished; everything stays fresh."

Entertainment is offered at various times, and an acoustic band plays once a month.

Gauthier is always looking for new ways to expand her shop. She is adding her personal baby grand piano to offer music throughout the day. She is also looking to start a dating notebook so people can meet singles at the coffee shop.

A variety of coffees are served daily, and from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., soups, salads and sandwiches are served. She lives by her motto "where good friends meet."

The hours of operation are 7 a.m.- 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Fri-Sat 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The shop is located at 1007 E. 20th St. Persons can obtain information by calling 781-CHAR.

Local Big Brothers Big Sisters receives full affiliation

BY HANNAH MARSH
Staff Writer

For almost 100 years, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program has been matching children with mentors all over the United States.

The organization, started in 1904, was first known as Big Brothers. Now there are 490 Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies affiliated with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. The Joplin organization is the newest agency and the last agency to receive full affiliation.

"The need for mentoring has been around for generations," said Jelaine Workman, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters for Jasper and Newton counties. "Children need someone that's really going to take them and be a role model for them. This is what the program is really about."

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a program geared toward children between the ages of 6 and 14 that are being raised by a single parent or by grandparents.

Having a big brother or big sister allows the child to have someone they feel comfortable with and can share things they might not want to share with someone in their household.

No fee is required for the youth or the volunteers to join the program. After going through an extensive process, volunteers are asked to make a one-year commitment to the child they are matched with.

Before the volunteer is matched to a child, the volunteer must go through a process which involves filling out an application, orientation, background check, a 90 minute to two-and-a-half hour interview, a home assessment test and a three-hour training session.

"My first goal is to be sure that the volunteer is a safe person for me to put a child with," Workman said. "We really want to be sure we're putting that child in a safe environment."

When being matched up, female children are matched with female volunteers, and male children are matched with either male volunteers or a couple.

If and when a match is made, the children have the opportunity to stay paired with their big brother or sister until they graduate from high school or turn 18.

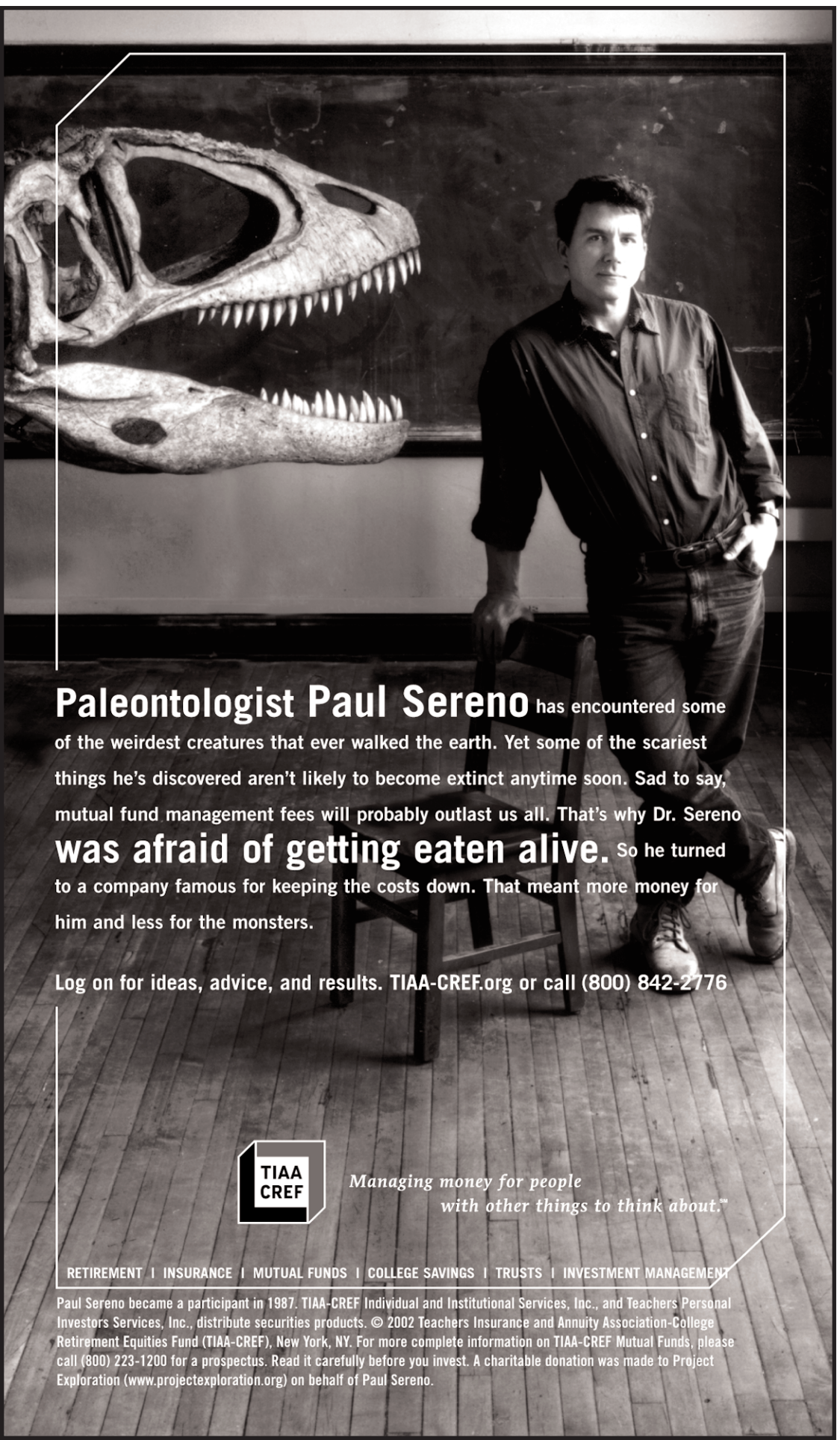
Big Brothers Big Sisters has three programs: a community based program where the volunteers are asked to spend two to four hours a week with their child; UP2US, which is a collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Missouri and requires volunteers spend one hour each week with their children; and a school based program where the volunteers meet with their children after school on their campus for an hour each week.

"The biggest problem is getting volunteers to sign up and give us their time," Workman said.

Right now there are 80 matches with another 20 boys on the waiting list. Amy Kihenia, a senior with a double major in German and international business, has been a big sister since 2001. She's been with the same child since she became involved. As the secretary of the Students in Free Enterprise chapter at Missouri Southern, Kihenia has recruited other SIFE members to be involved in the program as well.

"It's a great program," Kihenia said. "It brings you to a very humbling level."

She said it's been great being able to see how her child has grown and matured. Also, one of the best aspects is making her child feel like she can do anything.


Paleontologist Paul Sereno has encountered some of the weirdest creatures that ever walked the earth. Yet some of the scariest things he's discovered aren't likely to become extinct anytime soon. Sad to say, mutual fund management fees will probably outlast us all. That's why Dr. Sereno was afraid of getting eaten alive. So he turned to a company famous for keeping the costs down. That meant more money for him and less for the monsters.
Log on for ideas, advice, and results. TIAA-CREF.org or call (800) 842-2776
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Paul Sereno became a participant in 1987. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services, Inc., and Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc., distribute securities products. © 2002 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), New York, NY. For more complete information on TIAA-CREF Mutual Funds, please call (800) 223-1200 for a prospectus. Read it carefully before you invest. A charitable donation was made to Project Exploration (www.projectexploration.org) on behalf of Paul Sereno.

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Lions stay on track for CMSU

BY CLIFF ERWIN
Staff Writer

From one elite meet to the next tough meet, that's what the Lions and Lady Lions track and field teams face each week.

Feb. 14 was the University of Arkansas Invitational where 15 Lions attended; Saturday, the Missouri Southern squads head to the University of Oklahoma Invitational.

At AU, Southern's men had to face off against some of the best in the college and professional worlds.

Arley Smith and Jamie Tallman improved in the weight throw competition, throwing 59-5 and 53-9 respectively. In the 5,000-meter run, the Lions were able to place third, ninth, 10th, 13th and 14th. Petri Kykyri and Magnus Holmstrom led the group with times of 14:43 and 14:57, respectively. Michael Stewart jumped 47-9 in the triple jump, earning him a provisional mark. Brian Lyons ran in the mile, finishing third in his heat with a time of 4:14. He will need 4:12 to go to Boston in March for the national championships.

Seth Isringhausen improved his height in the pole vault to 16-4 3⁄4, making him third in the nation. Kyle Rutledge duplicated his previous vault of 16, and Chris Turner vaulted at 15-7, which is two inches lower than he has done before this season.

All three coaches have been busy at work deciding how they are going to attack the conference championship, which is right around the corner.

"If we're going to win it (MIAA), we've got to have everything right," Rutledge said.

"I'm looking very optimistic, but we have to make sure that on the coaching staff that we have all our ducks in a row. The athletes need to do the rest."

For the Lady Lions, they also only took a limited number of athletes to AU.

"The whole intent for going to the University of Arkansas, for us, was to put some of our best people in a situation where they could have great competitive forces and at the same time, hopefully, pushed them to some of their highest and best performances," said Lady Lions head coach Patty Vavra.

At Arkansas, Mary Garrett set a school record, beating her previous one, in the 400 meter with 55.90.

Danee Jones bettered her mark in the weight throw, tossing to a length of 58-11 3⁄4.

Melissa Turner vaulted 10-8 at Arkansas, getting closer to the 11-foot mark.

At OU the men and women will see the same caliber of competition they saw two weeks ago there.

OU is a sprint-oriented team, the heat is turned up to help in their races.

For distances runners, it is more difficult.

Vavra is counting on a more well-balanced team to step up this week and prepare accordingly to what is to come at the MIAA meet.

"When you get close to conference, you should have to be able to handle the pressure, and that's what it's all about," Rutledge said.

Student mom joins tennis team

BY PHILIP MARTIN
Sports Editor

After years of working a full-time job and mothering two daughters, deciding to return to college and play on the tennis team may have been impossible for some.

For Kim McMunn, freshman undecided major, this has become a reality.

McMunn decided last semester to return to Missouri Southern and play on the tennis team. This, of course, took some convincing from head tennis coach Julie Wengert and McMunn's daughters and husband.

"She always comes to all of our matches, and the thought never really occurred to her that she has eligibility, and she's never competed at the college level before," Wengert said. "We kind of got the idea started, and it went from there."

McMunn said her daughters Lacey McMunn and Mendy Burnett played tennis for the Lady Lions.

Burnett no longer plays and is trying to finish her degree this semester.

Wengert told McMunn that the team needed extra players for this season and asked her if she considered playing for the College.

"I was kind of like, that was really nice of you to say that, I was flattered," McMunn said. "I didn't really seriously think about that. Then she got back to me and she said, 'Well, you're actually eligible.'"

Wengert told McMunn that for her to be able to participate on the team, she had to take 12 credit hours.

Because she works full time, McMunn didn't think she would be able to play on the team and take classes.

Her daughters then told her she could take classes over the Internet and through video correspondence.

McMunn said her first thought about going back to college was that it was "too crazy." After getting reassurance from her children and husband saying that if she wanted to do it, she should.

McMunn said after she checked out her options, it seemed possible.

It has been 25 years since she was last in college, and she was a little scared about the tests. McMunn said she took one test over the Internet and when she submitted the test, it didn't go and the timer kept going.

She thought it just hadn't worked, so she pushed the submit button again.

When the next page opened up, it said she hadn't answered any questions.

"I was sick," McMunn said. "It was a Saturday night, so I e-mailed the teacher, and then I called and left a message. Then she went ahead the next week and reset it and let me retake it."

McMunn said the incident didn't happen to just her but other students in her class.

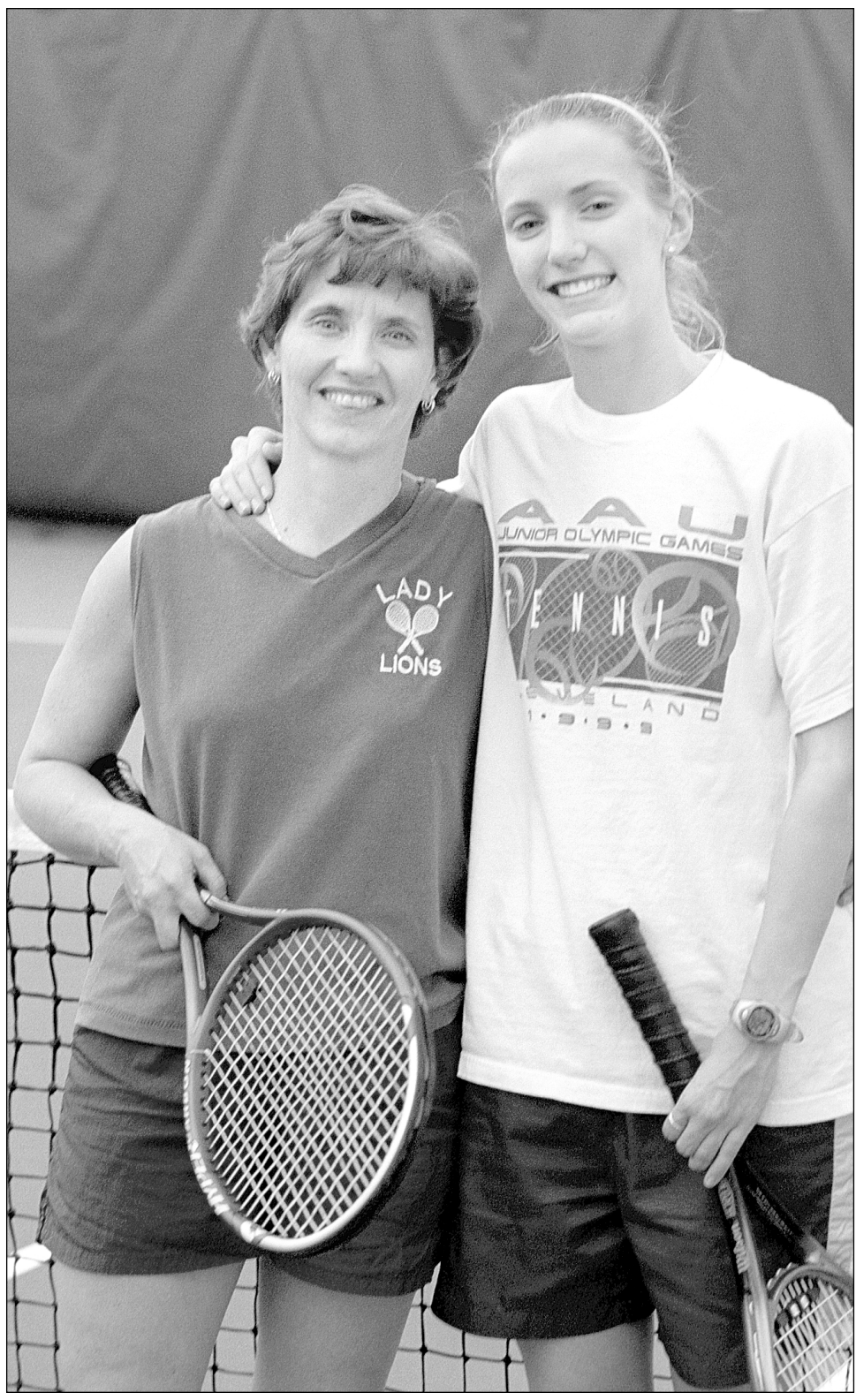
In the upcoming season starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday against Cowley County Community College at home, McMunn will be playing No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles.

Wengert said once McMunn gets practicing again, she will be close with Lacey McMunn and Sheryl Posch.

"She can give each of them a run for their money," Wengert said.

McMunn said as a player she likes to make the person she's playing against work for the win if they beat her.

"It should be pretty exciting to see her play and compete against other people within the conference," Wengert said. "I think she'll be very competitive. She might surprise a few of us girls in the conference."



Andy Tevis/The Chart

Kim McMunn, left, with her daughter, Lacey, has returned to college after 25 years. She plays on the Lady Lions tennis team. The tennis season starts at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Softball falls twice to OBU

Team plays first home game on March 6

BY DAVID HAUT
Staff Writer

Missouri Southern's softball team opened its season with a close defeat Feb. 18 against undefeated Oklahoma Baptist University.

Efforts by the Lady Lions weren't enough, as they lost by only one run twice in the doubleheader, 6-5 and 8-7.

"I'm extremely excited about how they performed," said head coach Jennifer Jimerson.

"We played a tough team."

Sophomore left fielder Alesa Woolard led the way for the Lions with six hits in her first eight at bats

"She hit the ball hard every time up," Jimerson said. "She's hit the ball well in every scrimmage we've had this season. It's not like she just had a good game; she's a good hitter."

Freshman pitcher Callie Stanford began her college debut in game one, giving up four hits and five earned runs.

"Our pitching struggled a little," Jimerson said. "But that's to be expected the first game."

The Ladies first game was like a tennis match with the lead bouncing back and forth four times. After five innings, they were tied, 5-5.

A scoreless sixth put pressure on Southern to score in the seventh. Despite a triple from Woolard, the Lions couldn't bring one in, leaving one last chance for OBU.

OBU rallied to bring in the one run it needed to win, giving the Lady Lions their first loss of the season.

Game two had a slow start with both teams scoreless in the first two innings. Southern put up a run in the third, followed by a four-run inning for OBU.

"There were times when we were down," Jimerson said. "But they just kept on fighting and fighting."

Southern fought back, scoring twice in the fifth and three times in the sixth, but couldn't keep up. OBU outscored Southern by only one run.

A scoreless seventh for the Lady Lions meant their second loss of the season. With the season just beginning, Jimerson thinks her team will have a great season.

"We don't really have any weaknesses," she said.

"There are just a few things that we need to work on."

The Ladies travel to Dallas on Feb. 28 for the Division II Lead-off Classic. Their home opener is scheduled at 5 p.m.on March 6 against Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Lady Lions suffer defeat by 14 to Lady Griffons

BY KRISTEN SMITH
Assistant Sports Editor

With hopes of holding a second victory over Missouri Western's Lady Griffons, the basketball Lady Lions took a trip to St. Joseph.

"They came here earlier this season, and we beat them really bad," said freshman guard Chrissie Greninger.

Southern finished its game earlier this season against Missouri Western 79-55. During the past six years, the Lady Lions have not been able to beat Missouri Western. The game this season, held on Jan. 22, was their first win against Missouri Western since 1996. However, this feat was not to be repeated as the Lady Lions lost 69-55 on Feb. 19.

Lions 55
Griffons 69

The women finished out the first half against the Lady Griffons in a 29-29 tie. The women were expecting another win, but fell behind in the second half.

Center Lucimara Silva held the game high with 23 points.

The Lady Lions current record for the season is 14-12 (6-9). The game left Missouri Western with a 20-4 (12-3) season record.

After a win against Pittsburg State Feb. 12, the women headed to Emporia, Kan., on Feb. 15 for a chance at a second win over Emporia State University. After beating Emporia earlier this season, the women were surprised at the 91-80 loss they suffered from the Lady Hornets.

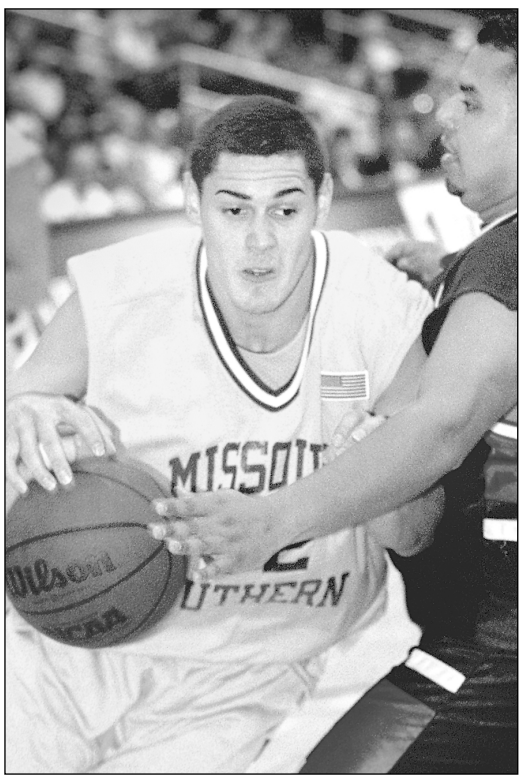
While Silva led with 19 points for the game, freshman guard Carol Koenig scored 18 points for Southern before fouling out of the game.

Greninger was not able to attend the game against ESU but talked with her teammates when they returned home.

"They played a low game," Greninger said. "Emporia was shooting well."

Students look forward to the women returning for home games against Truman State on Saturday and then against University of Missouri-Rolla on Wednesday.

"I enjoy watching the women play," said Liz Scheurich. "I like going to the games because it shows good school spirit.".



Andy Tevis/The Chart

Carlos Collazo, freshman forward drives past a Messenger player during the Feb. 17 game. The Lions defeated the Eagles 114-48.

Southern concentrates on time-honored defense mantra

BY KEITH ROBERTSON
Staff Writer

Offense wins games, but defense wins championships.

This is a time-honored mantra that one might see hanging in the locker room of any athletic team. It is something the Missouri Southern men's basketball team is concentrating on.

The Lions have not had a problem scoring this season. In eight of the last 10 games, Southern has scored at least 80 points.

This trend was evident on Feb. 15 at Emporia State University. The Lions, while scoring a more-than-respectable 90 points on the road, allowed 104 to the Hornets. This, according to Lions head coach Robert Corn, can be attributed to poor defense and excellent execution by ESU.

"Besides the fact that Emporia is a very good team, we didn't do a very good job on transition defense, and we had some breakdowns in our half-court defense," Corn said.

Junior guard Ameer Watts led the Lions offensively with a career-high 30 points.

"Other than Ameer, we didn't shoot the ball well," Corn said. "When we score 90 points and one guy has 30, that shows you our shots just weren't falling."

Corn said the team is not going to make any changes to its defensive approach but execution does need to improve.

Lions 68
Griffons 82

"If we don't correct these little problems now, they are going to cause an even bigger problem for us in the conference tournament," Corn said. "We have to work on stopping penetration and rebounding."

There was some defensive improvement made by the Lions when they played the Messenger College Eagles on Feb. 17. The Eagles were handed a huge 114-48 loss in the first meeting between the two Joplin colleges.

"That was a very good game for us at this point in the season," Corn said. "It was a chance for some of the guys who work hard for us in practice each week to get some good game minutes. They all stayed within themselves and our game plan and played a very clean game. "It showed me that if something unforeseen were to come up in the conference tournament I have some guys that can get the job done. And I wouldn't hesitate to use any one of them."

Southern was led by sophomore forward Caleb Engelken with 22 points and redshirt freshman forward Dan Jones with 17 points.

This game was also a chance for Messenger to improve its program and gain a little more recognition. It received a small amount of money for the athletic department and got the opportunity to play a higher caliber opponent.

On Feb. 19, the Lions faced the Missouri Western Griffons on the road. The Griffons, Corn said, are the hottest in the conference and are capable of beating anyone in the league if they are shooting the ball well.

The Griffons handed Southern (16-8, 9-6 MIAA) its sixth conference loss of the year and its second straight road loss. The Lions' defense fared a little better in the 82-68 loss.

Leading the Lions in scoring were Warren and Watts with 20 and 15 points respectively.

This loss broke the three-way tie the Lions were in with the Griffons and Northwest Missouri State University. Although the Lions are assured of a place in the conference tournament, they are all but out of the race for the MIAA regular season title.

Irene Davis, a 90-year-old Joplin resident, was homeless for many years as she saved money for her first home in Louisiana.
Andy Tevis/The Chart

From the Pit *to* the Palace

Joplin woman overcomes poverty, hard times to pursue her lifelong dream

BY JERRY MANTER
Managing Editor

Photo Courtesy of Irene Davis

The Cupp family helps celebrate Irene Davis's 90th birthday last August at Cici's Pizza in Joplin. Davis used to baby-sit Becky, left, when she was a little girl and is now friends with the family.

The corn stalks were shoulder high the day Irene Davis lost her job as a farm worker for a wealthy plantation man in Northern Louisiana.

"You're going to have to move," the plantation owner told her in the mid-1930s. "I need to move a new family in."

With her parents deceased, two of her siblings under her watchful eye, Davis, who was born in 1912, found herself at the doorsteps of a closed door with nothing but a few clothing items and some materials that she could build into a tent.

She was homeless, out of work, hungry and longing for some clean water to take a bath.

"I didn't have anything to lean on," Davis said. "I was in the pit of trouble and the pit of starvation."

It was the beginning of a long journey for Davis who wanted nothing more than a roof over her head and a hot meal to ease the hunger pains she dealt with on a daily basis. Davis, now a Joplin resident, was able to find a home for her siblings before too long. At the time, she was relieved they had food and a proper place to live. But she was still desperate for work and a home. Throughout the farming community surrounding Minden, La., Davis knocked on every door asking for work.

But no one answered her plea.

A dream worth fighting for

Davis remained cold, distraught and hungry, barely holding on.

Some nights it was a worn out wooden cupboard on the side of a dirt road. Some nights it was a hollow tree trunk that would keep her from the rain.

"I can't believe how I felt all by myself," she said.

Day after day, the search continued. She needed to find a job relatively soon before her years of severe poverty overwhelmed her body. For so long, she was unable to bathe and was forced to clean herself in dirty puddles of water.

"I didn't know what a bath was," she said. "I kept asking for help, but all I would get was 'no.'"

The local funeral home acted as another temporary home for Davis. She was never able to sleep indoors, but she did manage to crawl underneath the home's ambulance, hoping to avoid the weather.

"That was my home," she said. "I can't believe I didn't get run over."

One night while resting her head on the cold concrete, Davis had a dream of a life so beautiful and real at the same time. The dream was simple: she wanted her very own house. She was tired of dodging storms, avoiding the cold and not having the opportunity to watch the sunset in a rocking chair on her very own porch.

She quit asking locals for help. It was always no.

After a few setbacks, Davis found her way to the Busy Bee Café in nearby Cotton Valley, a little town 19 miles away. Davis walked in asking for help, looking for any position they had. The old, rundown restaurant gave her an opportunity.

Davis would pocket $9.70 a week.

"That was big money back then," she said.

She saved every dime, every penny for her dream. Working around the clock, day after day, Davis continued putting away the money in a jar. She became aware of a little place that resembled a shed more than anything. But this house was in her budget.

She paid cash — $75.

Through all the hard work, persistence and a strong belief in God, Davis was finally able to move into her home. Opening the door with nothing more than a pillow sack full of clothes and a couple personal belongings, she saw the wood heater and it finally dawned on her that her dream underneath the ambulance had finally come true.

"I was rich then," she said. "It wasn't fancy, but I had my own house."

But all that she'd worked for was about to be taken away.

"Then the tornado came," she said. "It took the whole town, it took my house and everything in there."

Davis remembers the night she almost lost her life. Hearing the tornado approach, all she could do was pray and crawl underneath the bed so she wouldn't be carried away by the wind.

But it was too powerful.

When she saw her bed lift up into the sky, she jumped up and began to run. Dodging debris, she tripped and fell, wedging her legs in between a fallen tree.

"I'm laying there, I couldn't move my feet," she said.

Davis laid in pain while waiting out the storm that just took her home.

"I fell into the pit," she said. "There I was."

The storm left 172 people dead.

Although Davis was again homeless, the state notified her that it would build her a home using federal disaster money. It took a while, but the state built it on the very site of her original home. That was her land, and she didn't want to leave it.

The new home even had a concrete porch.

"I thought I was in heaven," she said.

For more than 16 years, Davis worked at the Busy Bee. During her 16th year with the restaurant, Davis discovered she had a half brother, Willy Lee McGee, who was living in Hayti, Mo. She wanted to meet him.

"I just walked out of the café, got a pickup truck, found a man and left," she said.

Offer a hand, save a friend

It was late in the evening on April 12, 1952, when she and the driver, M.D. Davis, arrived in Joplin. The next morning M.D. went on a walk to check out the construction of Seventh Street. The project manager yelled out to him.

"What are you doing? Get that shovel and get to work."

With M.D. receiving the construction job, Davis wouldn't be able to meet her half brother for another four years.

Davis landed a job as an economic surveyor, an outreach worker that went to homes in the district to survey families and their economic status.

But not all residents enjoyed a middle-aged black woman knocking on their doors asking personal questions about their family. But Davis wouldn't let that slow her down. Not even the day she had a double gauge shotgun pointed directly at her face.

On the long list of families Davis had to visit, none stood out more than the family with seven sons on the outskirts of town. The family was notorious for poverty and violence. The police even avoided the home. Not much was known about Al, his wife Fern and their seven sons. It was whispered, however, that Al was almost always drunk, beat his children to a pulp and had his wife leery of every move she would make. It wasn't uncommon for Fern's body to be covered with black and blue bruises from head to toe.

"She'd be black just as I am," Davis said. "He was a drunker."

Davis ignored the warnings she received from fellow co-workers.

"If you go, take a man with you," an employee told her.

Driving toward the house in her pickup, Davis brought a little Bible that was sitting on the passenger seat.

Overcoming nerves, she pulled alongside the front of the house and was surprised to see all seven sons and Al sitting on the edge of the porch.

She grabbed the Bible, opened the door and heard a loud uproar of snarls and barking from the family's dogs.

She walked gingerly to the edge of the porch with all eyes directed at her.

"Can I sit down?" she said to the boys.

After a few seconds, the boys slid over, allowing just enough room for Davis to sit down.

As the little black woman from Louisiana sat on the porch with the husband and the wild seven, she was interrupted just as she was about to begin asking her survey questions.

"What's that you got in your hand?" one of the boys asked.

Davis showed them her Bible.

"They started talking to me," she said.

That afternoon Davis and the family had conversations about life and the Bible. After a while, Fern made her presence on the porch.

"Why don't you come to church on Sunday," she said to Fern.

Davis was unaware that on Sunday mornings Fern could almost always hear the distant sounds of church service stretching beyond their property.

"I can hear the preaching from here," Fern said.

After all her questions were answered, Davis packed up her things and said goodbye. One by one, each member of the family shook her hand. She turned around and started walking to the pickup.

"When you coming back?" one of the boys said.

Within a few days, she did go back to the home.

Wanting to help the family in every way that she could, she knew she was going to have to concentrate on Al and his drunken lifestyle that plagued him and his family.

"He was mean, but he had a good spot," she said. "I could see it in him."

Davis frequently visited Fern, the children and Al. She promised herself that she would never turn her back on them. She was going to keep her word. She always told them:

"I love you for who you is."

Through friendly counseling, patience and a lot of struggle, Al slowly began to listen, and was able to see how the alcohol was destroying his family and his life.

"I could see something in him," she said. "I'm going to keep him until I find him."

Davis helped Al sober up and realize the opportunity that awaited him.

"He quit beating his wife and kids," she said. "I saw a different Al."

Although there's not much that can surprise Davis, Al's next step in life did. He became a preacher in a church near Neosho.

When Davis learned about Al's death in 1965 from a heart attack during a mid-morning service, she was sad but relieved.

"I thank God that he changed before he left," she said.

For 35 years, Davis was happily married to M.D. before he died in 1987.

They were never able to have children, but she still filled her love for children when she quit her survey job and opened her home for baby-sitting.

"I loved children, and always wanted them, but I wasn't able to have any," she said.

At the time, some on-lookers would question an African-American woman tending to the needs of white children.

Davis, however, ignored them and continued on with her job.

"I don't look at colors," she said. "They are my children."

An inspiration to everyone

Today, Davis is 90 years old, and refuses to live the rest of her life in a nursing home. Independent and still holding a sharp mind, she can never forget the struggle she went through to discover a life filled with happiness.

"I can look back and think about how I got here," she said.

Dorothy McPherson, a close friend of Davis for 27 years, said she's been blessed knowing such a beautiful person.

"She's been a mentor to me," McPherson said. "She's an inspiration to everyone that meets her."

McPherson said she's amazed at how much a 90-year-old woman can offer under the circumstances.

"She gives me strength and gives me a lot of wisdom," McPherson said. "She's very special to me."

Although the journey has been long for Davis, she's happy where she's ended up.

It's always been the dream that's helped her ignore the struggle of life. No matter what, she's been ready.

And today, she continues living out that dream.

She still has her very own home.

"This is my palace," she said. "I've come to a place where I can sit down and rest a while."